

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, as amended, in view of the following remarks.

The present invention as set forth in **amended Claim 1** relates to a **porous resin film**, comprising:

30 to 90 wt% of a thermoplastic resin comprising a hydrophilic thermoplastic resin component; and

70 to 10 wt% of an inorganic or organic fine powder;

**wherein a surface of said porous resin film has a contact angle to water of 110° or less and a difference between a maximum value and a minimum value of said contact angle to water is 30° or less.**

In contrast, JP 53081578A (JP'578) fails to disclose or suggest a contact angle of the disclosed polyolefin tape to water of 110° or less and a difference between a maximum value and a minimum value of said contact angle to water is 30° or less.

In addition, JP '578 discloses in Example 1 a tape produced that has a surface having an average contact angle to water of 85° and a difference between a maximum value and a minimum value of the contact angle to water is 41°. Thus, the tape of JP '578 does not satisfy the condition that "a difference between a maximum value and a minimum value of said contact angle to water is 30° or less" as claimed in Claim 1. In addition, there is no suggestion or motivation to use a tape having the claimed difference of maximum and minimum contact angle. Moreover, the specification of the present invention describes at page 11, last paragraph to page 12, first paragraph:

“Difference between maximum and minimum values of the contact angle to water” as described in the context of this specification represents difference between a maximum value and a minimum value obtained from 10 times of such measurement. The smaller the difference between the maximum and minimum

values is, the more uniform the fluid adsorption becomes when an ink or water-base medium is used, so that such recording medium can provide an excellent printing property. The difference between the maximum and minimum values is preferably 30° or less, more preferably 20° or less, and still more preferably 10° or less.”

Thus, excellent printing properties are obtained if the difference between maximum and minimum contact angle is in the claimed range. This is not disclosed or suggested by the reference. Thus, amended Claim 1 is not obvious over JP '578.

Therefore, the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by JP 53081578A and the rejection of Claims 12-18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over JP 53081578A are believed to be unsustainable as the present invention is neither anticipated nor obvious and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

The rejection of Claims 3, 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over JP 53081578A is moot in view of the cancellation of Claims 3 and 4.

In addition, the rejection of Claims 7-11, 27, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over JP 53081578A alone or in view of JP 2001-019830 is respectfully traversed.

JP 53081578A and JP 2001-019830 fail to disclose or suggest a porous resin film having a surface which has a contact angle to water of 110° or less and a difference between a maximum value and a minimum value of said contact angle to water is 30° or less. Thus, JP 53081578A alone or in view of JP 2001-019830 does not anticipate or render obvious the present invention. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

In addition, the rejection of Claims 21-26, 28 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over JP 53081578A, in view of Ohba et al is respectfully traversed.

JP 53081578A and Ohba et al fail to disclose or suggest a porous resin film having a surface which has a contact angle to water of 110° or less and a difference between a

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maximum value and a minimum value of said contact angle to water is 30° or less. Thus, JP 53081578A alone or in view of Ohba et al does not anticipate or render obvious the present invention. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

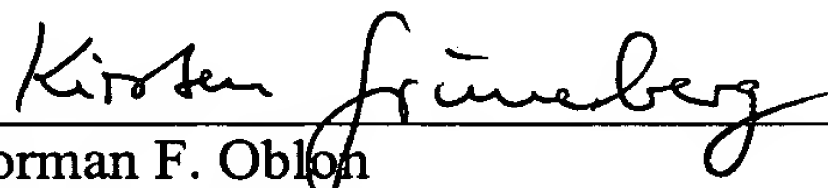
The objections to Claims 10, 11, 16, 21-26 are obviated by the amendment of these Claims. With regard to Claims 21-26, Applicants note that it is stated at page 14, lines 17 and 18 : "the thickness of the stacked material is not specifically limited, and can properly be selected according to the purpose of use." It is clear that the stacked material is not limited to have the form of a film.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge that the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement, filed in the above-identified application on June 12, 2003, have been considered. For the Examiner's convenience a copy of Form PTO 1449 as filed on June 12, 2003, is attached herewith.

This application presents allowable subject matter, and the Examiner is kindly requested to pass it to issue. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the claims or otherwise wish to discuss this case, he is kindly invited to contact Applicants' below-signed representative, who would be happy to provide any assistance deemed necessary in speeding this application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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